

# CULTURAL RESOURCE ISSUES

Channel Islands National Park faces issues in all areas of cultural resource management:

- Archeological Resources
- Cultural Landscapes
- Ethnographic Resources
- History/Heritage Education
- Museum Collections
- Structures
- Interdisciplinary Programs
- Resource Protection
- Staffing Needs
- Training

Detailed information about threats to resources and deficiencies in each of these program areas is presented below, organized by Servicewide issue, and in the referenced project statements.

## ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

### *Terrestrial Archeology*

The park has a basic need for survey work on Santa Cruz Island, additional survey on Santa Rosa Island and updating of inventory data for Anacapa, San Miguel and Santa Barbara Islands. Although investigators have conducted archeology for more than one hundred years on the Channel Islands, 85% of the land area of the park still lacks basic archeological inventory. Anacapa Island, Santa Barbara Island, Santa Rosa Island and San Miguel Island possess relatively good inventories, however the information dates to the 1970s. East Santa Cruz Island has seen little archeological work since 1928 when an archeological project located four major sites. Recent reconnaissance and examination of aerial photographs by the park archeologist have located additional occupied rock shelters, including two sea caves containing cultural resources, as well as numerous surface middens in this area. Well designed sampling surveys on the rest of Santa Cruz Island, not under NPS administration, provide additional information about the likely number and significance of the archeological resources on the east

end. There may be around 600 sites to be recorded on East Santa Cruz Island.

Archeological site data have been recorded on California State Inventory forms which are maintained in at the park and in State Information Centers. These data have not been entered into ASMIS or into the park's GIS database.

Erosion threatens many archeological sites, particularly on Santa Rosa Island, exacerbated by thin vegetative cover and large grazing animals. Other sources of erosion in inland locations are destroying an unknown amount of archeology. Grazing, wild pig rooting and allied activities also degrade the resource. Prehistoric archeological sites commonly occur along the coast of Santa Rosa Island. Many of these sites sit on top of high bluffs that are actively eroding. Vast quantities of cultural material (2000 cubic meters according to one estimate) are lost to coastal erosion each year on Santa Rosa Island alone. Although the total extent of this problem remains unclear, the results of the Santa Rosa Island archeological survey indicate that large numbers of sites are seriously threatened. In many cases, measures can be taken to halt or slow this erosion, but erosion of coastal seacliffs is an inexorable natural force which will destroy sites and their associated information. Coastal erosion can only be counteracted by data recovery measures which will sample portions of archeological sites that will inevitably fall into the sea. Other sites that are threatened by erosive forces which are not as inevitable or powerful as coastal erosion may be stabilized or addressed through other means.

Several specific sites on Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa Islands, discussed in relevant project statements, clearly require major efforts at stabilization or data recovery.

An archeological assessment prepared in 1978 by Michael Glassow for the islands that were to be included in the park is still remarkably valid and current. An update of this document is needed, however, to include data from the extensive research that has occurred over the past twenty years.

A monitoring program to record baseline conditions of archeological sites and changes that are taking place over time is needed. Currently protected to a high degree by isolation and difficult and expensive access, monitoring of cultural

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resources will become increasingly necessary as visitation increases and visitors travel more independently. Regular monitoring of sites will help protect them from pot-hunting and vandalism and aid in prosecution of cultural resource violations.

Project statements related to archeological resources:

- C-4 Survey Archeology of Santa Rosa Island
- C-5 Survey Archeology of East Santa Cruz Island
- C-6 Stabilized Threatened Sites
- C-8 Testing of Threatened Sites
- C-14 Excavation of Seal-Damaged Sites, Point Bennett, San Miguel Island
- C-18 Test and Stabilize Daisy Cave
- C-29 Erosion Control Measures, SCRI-504 and 505
- C-35 Revise Archeological Assessment
- C-36 Protection Study, SMI-261
- C-42 Investigate Pleistocene and Early Holocene Localities for Paleontological and Archeological Resources

### **Submerged Resources**

Submerged cultural resources, almost entirely unknown to the park in 1980, have become increasingly better known through a series of archival projects and field studies. Submerged cultural resources consist primarily of shipwrecks, but also include prehistoric archeological sites that have now been submerged due to ancient land movement and cultural materials that have eroded more recently from the islands into the sea. Management of submerged resources is shared with Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and the State of California, who actually owns objects in the seabed.

Since the first attempt at mapping the *Winfield Scott* in 1983, nineteen more wreck scatters have been located and documented to some degree. These

include one military aircraft, a Grumman Guardian, and the vessels listed in the chart below.

A Submerged Cultural Resources Assessment has been completed which summarizes and synthesizes the archeological and historical documentation that has occurred to this point. This document indicates that there are reliable records of between 28 and 31 vessels built before 1942 which wrecked in park waters, all of which remain unlocated. Between seven and ten vessels built more than 50 years ago which have wrecked in the last 50 years within the park also remain unlocated.

Considerably more survey and evaluation work remains before an adequate understanding of the submerged cultural resources within the park is achieved. Submerged cultural resources require special techniques to locate, document, and protect because of the difficulties in operating within the aquatic environment. Specialized techniques include systematic remote sensing surveys of at least high priority districts of the park's 120,000 submerged acres.

A regular monitoring program for submerged resources is needed, similar to that for terrestrial sites. Shipwrecks are particularly vulnerable to vandalism. Regular monitoring will assist in protecting these resources and aid in prosecution of violations.

Project statement related to submerged cultural resources:

- C-6 Stabilize Threatened Sites
- C-8 Testing of Threatened Sites
- C-12 Submerged Cultural Resource Survey, Park Waters
- C-16 Search for San Miguel Island Wrecks
- C-17 Study the Wreck Scatters of 3 Lumber Schooners
- C-26 Historical and Archeological Analysis of Jane L. Stanford

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Table : Shipwrecks within Channel Islands National Park

Wreck Name	Date of Wreck	Description
Winfield Scott	1853	Side- wheel steamer
Goldenhorn	1892	Four-masted bark
Aggi	1915	Three-masted ship
Crown of England	1892	Steam freighter
Jane L Stanford	1929	Four-masted barkentine
J M Colman	1910	Three-masted lumber schooner
Comet	1911	Three-masted lumber schooner
Dora Bluhm	1905	Three-masted lumber schooner
Santa Cruz	1960	Two-masted schooner
Cuba	1923	Coastal steamer
ex-Tortuga	1988	Military target ship
Broadbill	1967	Diesel fishing vessel
Chickasaw	1962	Freighter
Peacock	1980 (?)	Mine sweeper
Del Rio	1952	Fishing Vessel
Dante Alighieri II	1938	Fishing Vessel
Englyn	1974	Yacht
Billcona	1952	Tug
W T & B Co No 60	1931	Motor Barge
Equator	1949	Diesel fishing vessel

## CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

Cultural landscapes within the park include the Anacapa Island Light Station; the Vail-Vickers Ranch at Bechers Bay and several round-ups on Santa Rosa Island; and the historic ranches at Scorpion Harbor, Smugglers Cove, Prisoner's Harbor and Rancho Del Norte on East Santa Cruz Island. Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa Islands potentially could

be viewed as cultural landscapes. These and other cultural landscapes have not been inventoried, evaluated or documented. A Cultural Landscape Inventory is critically needed to identify and record the park's cultural landscapes and their contributing elements. Because of ongoing park development and natural resources restoration projects, cultural landscape reports must be prepared to address preservation of significant landscapes. Many of the cultural landscape features have not been maintained

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for decades and are in need of stabilization, rehabilitation and restoration. These include untended vegetation which has become overgrown or has spread beyond its original planting areas; historic dry stone walls and checkdams which have been damaged by flooding and erosion; and other features such as fences, water troughs, windmills, corrals and roads.

Project statements related to this issue:

- C-7 Historic Resources Study, SRI and SCI
- C-19 Cultural Landscape Study
- C-30 Restore, Maintain Historic Olive Orchard, ESCI
- C-37 Repair Dry Wall Masonry Structures, ESCI
- C-40 Implement Appropriate Preservation Treatments for Historic Resources
- C-46 Document Historic Resources

### ETHNOGRAPHIC RESOURCES

Only a small amount of ethnographic work has been accomplished that addresses management concerns at Channel Islands. An ethnographic overview is needed which deals with Native American heritage, as well as those of other ethnic groups represented in Channel Islands history. A cultural affiliation study has been completed, which will provide a great deal of useful information for the ethnographic overview.

Several local Chumash groups and individuals maintain a keen interest in the islands. The park needs to increase the involvement of the recognized tribe and other groups and individuals in management planning for cultural resources, natural resources, interpretation, park development and other park planning efforts. In addition, the park needs to expand and formalize its consultation process with the tribe and interested groups and individuals for the purposes of carrying out the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act and the National Historic Preservation Act.

Oral histories and life histories of individuals associated with the Channel Islands have been carried out over the years by the park, the Santa Cruz Island

Foundation, and other parties. These are maintained at these institutions, as well as at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History and other locations. The Park has secured oral histories, photography, and videotapes about ranching on Santa Rosa Island and from some individuals associated with the Anacapa Light Station which assist in documenting the operations and facilities there. Additional subjects for oral and life histories need to be identified, as well as gaps in information that these persons could fill, and interviews completed before the subjects are no longer available.

- C-13 Prepare Ethnographic Overview
- C-25 Study Chinese Camps on Park Islands
- C-33 Rebury Native American Remains

### HISTORY/HERITAGE EDUCATION

A Historic Resources Study was prepared for Channel Islands National Monument and San Miguel Island in 1978. This study is being updated and revised and is scheduled for completion in 2000.

A park administrative history is needed. The park archives require professional organization and management so that the park's administrative records can be accessed and used.

National Register documentation has been completed for only a portion of the park's eligible resources. Archeological nominations prepared in the 1970s for Anacapa, San Miguel and Santa Barbara Islands should be updated with current information and revised to meet the current National Register documentation standards. Once archeological survey data for East Santa Cruz Island is available, the National Register nomination for the island should be amended to include the east end and the information updated and revised to meet current National Register documentation standards. Santa Rosa Island is clearly eligible for National Register status as an archeological district and a nomination for the island should be prepared.

The light station on Anacapa Island is listed on the National Register, as is the *Winfield Scott*. Draft nominations for the Vail-Vickers Ranch and the *Goldenhorn* need to be completed and submitted. Nominations for the eligible resources on Santa Cruz

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and Santa Rosa Islands will be prepared and the Anacapa Light Station nomination will be updated as part of the completion of the park's Historic Resources Study. Eligible shipwrecks within the park need to be evaluated and documented.

Information collected through the Historic Resources Study will provide valuable and much-needed data for preparing interpretive programs dealing with the park's cultural resources.

Project Statement which relates to this issue:

- C-7 Historic Resources Study, Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz Islands
- C-20 Prepare Park Administrative History
- C-24 Grazing History, Vail-Vickers Ranch
- C-27 Historical Study of Fishing in the Channel Islands
- C-28 Prepare Park Administrative History
- C-41 Nominate Eligible Properties to the National Register
- C-42 Historical Investigation of Sea Otter Hunting
- C-46 Document Historic Resources

### **MUSEUM COLLECTIONS**

The park's museum collections contain archeological materials, paleontological materials, botanical and invertebrate specimens, archival materials, and historic objects related to the light station and ranching complexes on the islands.

Currently, the park lacks a cohesive program to manage its archives and museum collections. While there has been improvement in the storage and care of archival material and museum objects at Channel Islands, the park does not have personnel who are fully trained and capable in all of the aspects of the museum management program. While the park has a current Collections Management Plan, it needs a Scope of Collection Statement, a Collection Storage Plan and a Collection Condition Survey. Professional expertise is necessary for their preparation.

The park is curating the majority of its museum collection at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural

History, however a significant number of objects are housed at other institutions as well. An estimated 10,000 objects held by other institutions should be included within the NPS catalog. Collection Condition Surveys are needed for these off-site collections, along with follow-up treatment plans.

Conservation needs vary for the various types of resources maintained in the park collections. None of the metallic objects cataloged in the museum collection have received professional evaluation or treatment, and are susceptible to deterioration. There are approximately 400 items, several from park shipwrecks, which will require highly technical treatment, in this category.

Museum objects will continue to accumulate at a more rapid rate as resource projects continue at Channel Islands. These objects must be accounted for and maintained in adequate conditions. The park archives currently is insufficiently organized and maintained. Appropriate park records must be culled and added to the archives, organized, catalogued and maintained in adequate conditions.

Projects statements related to Museum Collections:

- C-9 Conservation and Inventory of Historic Material, SRI and ESCI
- C-22 Transfer Collections Data to CD-ROM
- C-39 Study and Conserve Agricultural Equipment, ESCI
- C-43 Catalog Park Collections
- C-44 Curation of Park Collections

### **STRUCTURES**

The current List of Classified Structures (LCS) was completed in 1995. Additional entries will be made and the existing information will be updated and revised under contract in 2000.

No Historic Structures Reports have been prepared for any of the park buildings currently on the LCS and only rudimentary condition assessments have been carried out for some park buildings. Historic Structures Reports should be completed for Smugglers and Scorpion Ranch Houses and Prisoner's Warehouse on Santa Cruz Island and for the Vail-Vickers Ranch House and the two large

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barns on Santa Rosa Island, at a minimum. Condition assessments are needed for the outbuildings on Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa Island and the Anacapa light station buildings. Condition assessments and Historic Structure Reports are needed to evaluate the current condition of the buildings, prioritize their preservation needs, and address deficiencies such as structural and seismic strengthening, fire protection, and code violations. Such analyses are fundamental for planning and implementing proper preservation and maintenance of the park's historic structures.

A preservation maintenance program for the park's historic structures is needed. Buildings that have been restored or rehabilitated need to be maintained in good condition and untreated buildings must not be allowed to continue to deteriorate. In the absence of maintenance guides, small problems that would be solved within the context of an ordered preventive maintenance program become more expensive projects; solutions are short-term and work is not directed efficiently toward long-term preservation.

The condition of the historic structures within the park ranges from good to poor. Of the 44 structures currently on the LCS, 18 are considered to be in good condition, 19 in fair condition and 7 in poor condition. Most buildings within the Anacapa Island Light Station have been rehabilitated within the past 10 years and are being maintained through cyclic maintenance funding. Preservation measures and maintenance of the historic buildings and structures on Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz Islands are carried out with project funding, as available. Ongoing work is needed to preserve and maintain these structures. While some of these buildings and structures are in good condition, most are in fair or poor condition and require preservation treatment.

Approximately three of the historic buildings and structures on the islands are severely deteriorated and in need of emergency stabilization to preserve them. Failure to carry out emergency stabilization of these structures will result in their loss or greatly increased preservation costs.

Project Statements which relate to this issue:

- C-1 Prepare Historic Structure Report and Preservation Guide for Anacapa Historic District

- C-7 Historic Resources Study, SRI and SCR (in part)
- C-15 Prepare Historic Structure Reports of Park Historic Structures, SRI and ESCI
- C-22 Prepare Historic Structures Report and Maintenance Guide for Park Structures, SRI and ESCI
- C-31 Historic Structure Reports, CHIS
- C-48 Preserve Historic Buildings and Structures

## INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAMS

The park maintains a GIS database. Much of the cultural resources information is currently not in a format that is convenient to capture into the database. Substantial fieldwork and data manipulation are needed to include the park's cultural resources into the park's GIS database. Completion of this work would greatly enhance the planning capability of the cultural resources programs and the park as a whole.

Historical base maps are being prepared as part of the Historic Resources Study and will be completed in 2001.

Project Statements related to these issues include:

- C-11 Enter Cultural Resources Data into Park GIS; Update National Databases
- C-22 Transfer Collections Data to CD-ROM

## RESOURCE PROTECTION

The isolation of the islands, the increasing staff presence on the islands, and the prevalence of guided trips for visitors on San Miguel Island and Santa Rosa Island provide security for the cultural resources of the islands. Increasing visitation to the islands and fewer restrictions on visitor activities are changing this situation, however. As visitation increases in volume and expands in diversity on Santa Rosa Island and Santa Cruz Island, additional measures to diminish adverse impacts by unguided visitors need to be established to prevent damage and deterioration to cultural resources, particularly archeological sites. Collecting of artifacts, vandalism,

looting of sites, and plundering of submerged wrecks represent real and significant threats to the resources.

Control of visitor impacts is closely connected to the need for cultural resources monitoring and visitor education. Public education programs, carried out in cooperation with the Division of Interpretation, are essential. Education of all park employees as to the variety and importance of the resources is also integral to their protection. Regular monitoring of resources and prosecution of resource violations through an effective law enforcement program provide effective means of protecting the resources from human impacts.

Security and protection measures are needed for remote and fragile resources. Monitoring of sites with significant archeological value through security systems may be necessary. Fire protection for the historic complexes on Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz and Anacapa Islands is inadequate. Additional measures for preventing and extinguishing fires are needed.

Flooding and erosion present two very great threats to the resources on Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa Island. To the extent possible, the sources and consequences of these threats should be addressed through stabilization of sites and control of the environment. Data recovery through archeological excavations and documentation through the Historic American Buildings Survey program need to be undertaken as soon as possible for potentially threatened resources, should uncontrollable natural forces damage or destroy the resources.

Project statements related to this issue:

- C-8 Testing of Threatened Sites
- C-14 Excavation of Seal-Damaged Sites, Point Bennett, SMI
- C-21 Design and Implement a Cultural Resource Monitoring Program
- C-29 Erosion Control Measures, SCRI 504 and 505
- C-38 Flood Protection for Cultural Resources, ESCI
- C-45 Address Fire Suppression and Security for Historic Resources

## **STAFFING NEEDS**

The park's operational budget currently supports two permanent staff in the cultural resources division: the division chief (classified as an inter-disciplinary position) and the park archeologist. Annual project funds support additional temporary staff and work carried out through contracts and cooperative agreements.

The park's operational budget does not include sufficient funds for adequate division staffing and support. Staffing needs are outlined in the Cultural Resources Programs section of the Resources Management Plan. Additional funding is needed to support the operations of the cultural resources division, for necessary training, travel and supplies. Operational funding increases have been requested through the OFS system.

C-23 Administer Cultural Resources Management Program

## **TRAINING**

Ongoing training in various areas of cultural resources management is needed for permanent and temporary park cultural resources staff, including all aspects of museum and archives management and curation, archeological site stabilization, compliance with cultural resources laws and regulations, and specialized training relevant to current preservation projects, such as remote sensing, metals conservation, dry stone masonry, etc.

Cultural resources training is also needed for other park staff, including: cultural heritage laws and regulations for the protection staff; the Secretary of the Interior's "Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties" and specialized preservation training for the maintenance staff; historic preservation compliance for management and protection, maintenance, interpretation and natural resources staff. Training in basic preservation principles and guidelines, care of artifacts, historic housekeeping, and interpretation of historic sites are all needed for the interpretation staff.

Project Statements related to this issue:

- C-47 Provide Cultural Resources Training for Park Staff

**Cultural Context/Theme**

The following themes are relevant to the cultural history of Channel Islands National Park

- I.A.1. The Early Peopling of North America  
(SMI and SRI; Daisy Cave, Arlington Woman)
- I.A.7. Western Archaic Adaptations (California Area)  
(numerous sites SRI and SMI)
- I. B. 3. Hunters and Gatherers of western Littoral and Sierra Regions (California)
- I. B. 22. Physical Anthropology of the American Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut (numerous collections from the islands exist in institutions throughout the world)
- I. C. 1. Prehistoric Architecture/Shelter/Housing
- I.C.2. Prehistoric Technology - tomol construction and use, fishing techniques and their development and elaboration
- I.C.3. Prehistoric Social and Political Organizations. - emergence of craft specialists, shamans, and chiefs - and conditions that led to their emergence (Late Period changes)
- I.C.4. Prehistoric Science/Intellectual Developments - navigation, fisheries knowledge, Chumash cosmology
- I.C.5. Prehistoric Arts/Handicrafts - basketry, ornamentation
- I.C.6. Prehistoric Communication - tomol (plank canoe)
- I.C.7. Prehistoric Diet/Health - SRI and SCR populations
- I.C.8. Prehistoric Economics/Trade - shell beads and toolkit production, including use of bead necklaces as virtual currency, numerous fishing techniques, trade routes between mainland and island communities.
- I.C.9. Prehistoric Warfare - clear evidence exists for violence at some periods in both archeological and ethnographic accounts

- I.C.10. Prehistoric Religion, Ideology, and Ceremonialism - rock art
- I.C.11. Prehistoric Social Differentiation - evidence in burial populations, dispersion of status ornamentation along with conditions that cause these conditions to arise
- I.C.12 Prehistoric Settlements and Settlement Patterns - 6000 +/- sites
- I.C.14 Prehistoric Rural Development
- I.C.15 Prehistoric Transportation and Travel - tomol (plank canoe)
- I.C.17 Prehistoric Animal Domestication/Husbandry - dog, dispersal of island fox
- I.C.18 Prehistoric Demographics - burial populations
- I.C.19 Prehistoric Culture Change - abundant material
- I.C.20 Submerged Prehistoric Period Archeological Resources - isolated artifacts and sites
- I.C.21 Major Contributions to the Development of Culture Histories - Daisy Cave
- I.C.22 Major Contributions to the Development of the Science of Archeology - Orr's work on SRI and the question of early occupation of the New World
- I.C.24. Prehistoric Human Physical Remains - both on island and in extant collections in several museums
- I.D. 1d. Native Adaptations to the Western Littoral and Sierra Environments (CA)
- I.D.2b. Whaling and other Maritime Activities
- I.D.3a1. Transfer of Technology to Native Peoples - Domestic Plants and Animals, Cultivation, and Husbandry - consequences appear on islands as missionization affect
- I.D.3b2. The Changing Cultural Geography of California - missionization
- I.D.3b3 New Inter- and Intragroup Alliances
- I.D.c1. Diseases and Massacres. Their Cultural and Biological Effects. - shrinking site size

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I.D.c2. Depopulation of Terrain - eventual result of above

I.D.c3. Captives, Slaves and Refugees - minor inhabitation of island in mission period

I.D.4. Native Contributions to the development of the Nation's Cultures - extensive and ongoing

I.D.5. Becoming Native American - this is happening right now, highly dynamic, and involves the islands.

I.D.6a. Ethnic Revitalization - once considered "vanished," the Chumash have returned - park resources are important to this movement

II.A.4. Spanish Exploration and Settlement, California. The traditional burial place of Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo and the JR Stone